

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—") or double-brackets ("[[]]"), as is applicable:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that are capable of determining ~~determine~~ to detect when the local storage device is operable.

8. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that are capable of determining ~~determine~~ to detect when the local storage device is inoperable.

9. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that are capable of determining ~~determine~~ to provide feedback to a user when the local storage device is available.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences is configured to support the processor with the remote data from the remotely located storage device by receiving the remote data into the memory and causing cause playback of the remote data from the memory to a screen display.

12. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to substantially simultaneously transfer the stored EPG information data to the local storage device while receiving additional remote data EPG information from the remotely located storage device to the memory.

13. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences is configured to support the processor with the EPG information local data from the local storage device by receiving the local data EPG information into the memory, wherein the executable instruction sequences is further configured to cause playback from the memory to a screen display.

14. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences is configured to support the processor with the local data EPG information from the local storage device by streaming the local data EPG information from the local storage device to a display device.

15. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the remote data EPG information through an out-of band channel.

16. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to store in the local storage device data associated with a future media content instance, wherein said data is received into the local storage device in advance of the presentation of said future media content instance.

17. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the remote ~~data~~ EPG information from the remotely located storage device to the local storage device while substantially simultaneously uploading the local ~~data~~ EPG information from the local storage device.

18. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to perform multiple read operations and multiple write operations in parallel to accessing a plurality of data in the local storage device.

19. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 18, wherein the multiple read operations and the multiple write operations occur substantially concurrently within substantially the same window of time.

20. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 18, wherein the multiple read operations and the multiple write operations share slices of a window of time as if occurring substantially in parallel.

21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein a media of the local storage device is partitioned into plural media partitions, including a media content portion for streaming media content for presentation to a user.

24. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 23, wherein the media partitions are user configurable.

25. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, further comprising two tuners for receiving the remote ~~data~~ EPG information among a plurality of transmission channels, further comprising an out of band channel for receiving and sending data, further comprising a communication port.

26. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the plurality of the transmission channels includes at least one digital transmission channel and at least one analog transmission channel.

27. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to request a plurality of data simultaneously from the plurality of the transmission channels.

28. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the memory and the local storage device store application data, application executable programs, and data associated with applications, and data associated with media services.

29. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to perform a multiplicity of write operations to the local storage device substantially in parallel to store the local and remote ~~data~~ EPG information and application clients from a subscriber television network, from the processor, and from a local device connected to the communication port.

30. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to perform a multiplicity of read operations from the local storage device in parallel to retrieve the local ~~data~~ EPG information and application clients previously stored in the local storage device to transmit the respective local ~~data~~ EPG information and application clients to a local device connected to the communication port, to the memory for use by an application client or operating system executing in the processor, and to be transmitted to a destination in the subscriber network.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to substantially simultaneously permanently record a media content instance received from one transmission channel and temporarily store a second media content instance received from another transmission channel.

33. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to permanently record two media content instances substantially simultaneously from two different transmission channels.

34. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to substantially simultaneously display three media content instances, wherein the two media content instances are received from the transmission channels and the third media content instance is received from the local storage device.

35. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein media content instances from the transmission channels are received in real-time.

36. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, further comprising an application client, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to use the memory and the local storage device for storing application client data in data structures with time-sensitive data entries maintained by an application client daemon task.

37. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the application client data from an in-band tuner.

38. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the application client data from a plurality of in-band tuners.

39. (Currently amended) A digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising:

a memory that stores executable instruction sequences; and

a processor that executes the stored executable instruction sequences,

the stored executable instruction sequences including:

an electronic programming guide (EPG) application that provides user access to EPG information, the EPG application configured to generate for display an EPG comprising a grid of broadcast media content instance titles and a scheduled broadcast start time for each of the media content instance titles, the EPG application further configured to provide a base service comprising the media content instance titles corresponding to a first period and each respective scheduled broadcast start time, the EPG application further configured to provide an extended service that provides additional information in the EPG, the extended service dormant until activated in direct response to detection of a connected local storage device, the EPG information comprising the base service and the extended service;

a dual mode file system that provides a common interface to both ~~[[a]]~~ the local storage device and a remotely located storage device;

wherein the EPG application further includes:

instructions that are capable of determining ~~determine~~ whether a local storage device is physically connected and not physically connected ~~coupled~~ to the DHCT;

instructions that use the dual mode file system to retrieve the EPG information from the remotely located storage device in cooperation with a carousel-type server and store the EPG information in the memory, responsive to determining that the local storage device is not physically connected ~~coupled~~ to the DHCT; and

instructions that use the dual mode file system to retrieve the EPG information from the remotely located storage device in cooperation with the carousel-type server and store

the EPG information in the local storage device, responsive to determining that the local storage device is physically connected coupled to the DHCT[:;].

~~wherein the electronic programming guide information includes a list of media content instances for a standard amount of days, a list of media content instances for an extended amount of days, channels for the media content instances, standard description information for the media content instances, long description information for the media content instances, and media content instance preview audio and video clips.~~

40. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured to receive the retrieved electronic programming guide information entirely into the memory rather than into the local storage device, wherein the processor is further configured to access the electronic programming guide information in memory for presentation in a display device.

41. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured to store the retrieved electronic programming guide information entirely into the local storage device, wherein processor is further configured to access the stored electronic programming guide information for presentation in a display device.

42. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the list of media content instances for an extended amount of days and the corresponding standard description information into the local storage device.

43. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive ~~the a~~ list of media content instances for an extended amount of days and ~~the a~~ corresponding ~~standard description information and~~ long description information collectively corresponding to the extended service into the local storage device.

44. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 43, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the long description information into the local storage device for the list of media content instances for the standard amount of days stored in the memory.

45. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 43, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive ~~the~~ media content instance preview audio and data clips associated with ~~the a~~ media content instance in the list of media content instances for the standard amount of days and store said media content instance preview audio and data clips into the memory.

46. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 45, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to transfer said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local storage device, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to access said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local storage device to the memory, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to present said media content preview audio and data clips on a display device from the memory.

47. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim [[39]] 45, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to transfer said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local storage device, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to access said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local storage device and present said media content instance preview audio and data clips on a display device from the local storage device.

48. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to access sprites from the remotely located storage device and store in the local storage device to augment the presentation of media content instances when retrieved from the local storage device from an application client.

49. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to retrieve hyper-linked data corresponding to a media content instance before the presentation of said media content instance.

50. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to maintain hyper-linked data in entries in a hyper-linked data structure indexed by time and date and service.

51. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to maintain hyper-linked data in entries in a hyper-linked data structure indexed by time and date and channel.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 51, wherein the hyper-linked data structure provides a channel directory and subdirectories segregated into time blocks corresponding to a media content instance time period of presentation, wherein the time blocks include a current time block and an upcoming time block.

54. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 53, wherein the current time block and upcoming time block are further segregated into time slots of increased granularity corresponding to a timed presentation of the hyper-linked data with a corresponding instance in a media content instance within said time blocks.

55. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 54, wherein the hyper-linked data structure is updated continuously to maintain the hyper-linked data for current and upcoming media content instances.

56. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 55, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to update the hyper-linked data when the time and date has substantially elapsed.

57. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 56, wherein processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to use the local storage device for caching hyper-linked data into the local storage device from the remotely located storage device, wherein the hyper-linked data corresponds to data located in a designated time slot of a presentation of a media content instance, wherein an application client is further configured to retrieve the hyper-linked data from the local storage device and present it during its designated time slot during the presentation of the media content instance.

58-94. (Cancelled)

95. (Currently amended) A method in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising the steps of:

determining whether a local storage device is physically connected and not physically connected coupled to the DHCT;

~~retrieving electronic programming guide (EPG) information from a remotely located storage device, through a dual mode file system that provides a common interface to both the remotely located storage device and the local storage device;~~

responsive to determining that the local storage device is not physically connected coupled to the DHCT, retrieving from a remote storage device in cooperation with a carousel-type server a base service EPG information and storing the base service EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT, through a dual mode file system the base service EPG information comprising media content instance titles and a scheduled broadcast start time for each of the media content instance titles;

responsive to determining that the local storage device is physically connected coupled to the DHCT, activating a previously dormant portion of an EPG application that provides an extended service, retrieving from the remote storage device in cooperation with the carousel-type server the base service EPG information and an extended service EPG information, and storing at least a portion of the extended service EPG information in the local storage device and the base service EPG information in the memory, the extended service EPG information comprising information supplemental to the base service EPG information yet unavailable for extended local storage prior to the activation through a dual mode file system; and

presenting the base service and extended service EPG information to a display device responsive to a user request, the extended service EPG information provided from the remote storage device proximal in time to the user request if the local storage is not connected,

otherwise the extended service EPG information is provided from the local storage without intervention of the remote storage device [[:]].

wherein the electronic programming guide information includes a list of media content instances for a standard amount of days, a list of media content instances for an extended amount of days, channels for the media content instances, standard description information for the media content instances, long description information for the media content instances, and media content instance preview audio and video clips.

96. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the base service electronic programming guide information entirely into a memory residing in the DHCT, further comprising the step of accessing the base service electronic programming guide information for presentation in [[a]] the display device.

97. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the extended service electronic programming guide information entirely into the local storage device, further comprising the step of accessing the extended service electronic programming guide information for presentation in [[a]] the display device.

98. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving ~~the~~ long description information corresponding to the extended service EPG information into the local storage device for ~~the~~ a list of media content instances for ~~the~~ a standard amount of days stored in a memory.

99-129. (Cancelled)

130. (Currently amended) A dual mode file method in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising the steps of:

determining ~~that whether~~ a local storage device is physically connected ~~coupled~~ to the DHCT;

~~responsive to determining that the local storage device is not~~ physically connected ~~coupled~~ to the DHCT;

~~[[,]] retrieving, from a remotely located carousel type server virtual file system, first electronic programming guide (EPG) information comprising a first base EPG service and first extended EPG service, the first base EPG service comprising media content instance titles and corresponding broadcast start times for a first period of time, the first extended EPG service comprising media content instance titles and corresponding broadcast start times for a second period of time not overlapping the first period of time;~~

~~and storing the first EPG information corresponding to the first base EPG service exclusively in a memory residing in the DHCT and initially storing for an extended period the first EPG information corresponding to the first extended EPG service exclusively in the local storage device; the first EPG information including a list of media content instances for only a standard number of days , and~~

~~presenting, in response to a user request for the first EPG information, the first EPG information by accessing the memory and the local storage device;~~

~~responsive to determining that the local storage device is not physically connected~~ ~~coupled~~ to the DHCT~~[[,]]~~;

~~responsive to determining that the local storage device is not physically connected to the local storage device;~~

retrieving, from the carousel type server remotely located virtual file system, first and second electronic programming guide (EPG) information comprising a second base EPG service comprising media content instance titles and corresponding broadcast start times corresponding to a third period of time;

and storing the first second EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT; and
and the second EPG information in the local storage device; the second EPG information including a list of media content instances for an extended number of days, and

presenting the second EPG information responsive to a user request by accessing the memory for the second base EPG services and accessing, proximal in time to the user request and different in time than the retrieval and storage of the second EPG information, second extended EPG services comprising media content instance titles and corresponding broadcast start times for a fourth period of time, the fourth period of time not overlapping the third period of time.

131. (New) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the EPG application is configured to transfer a portion of the EPG information corresponding to the extended service for a second period of time to the memory upon a lapse of time corresponding to a first period of time that coincides with the media content instance titles corresponding to the base service, the second period of time not overlapping the first period of time and immediately following the first period of time.

132. (New) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of transferring a portion of the extended service EPG information for a second period of time to the memory upon a lapse of time corresponding to a first period of time that coincides with the media content instance titles corresponding to the base service EPG information, the second period of time not overlapping the first period of time and immediately following the first period of time.

133. (New) The method of claim 130, further comprising the step of transferring the first EPG information corresponding to the first extended EPG service from the local storage device to the memory upon a lapse of the first period of time.